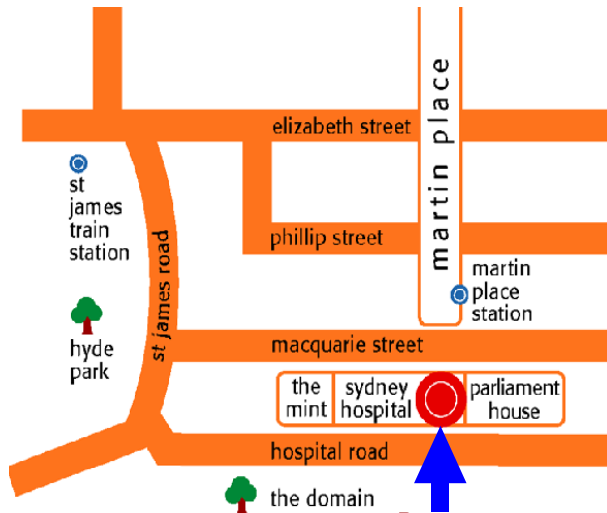


## Sydney Sexual Health Centre



The Sydney Sexual Health Centre provides a free, confidential and comprehensive service that helps put you in control of your sexual health. The service supports your sexual health by providing screening, vaccination and management of sexually transmissible infections including HIV and hepatitis B, women's and men's sexual health care, education, individual and couple counselling, and needle and syringe exchange. The service offers a choice of male and female doctors, nurses and counsellors who are respectful of your lifestyle and sexuality.

### NO MEDICARE CARD REQUIRED

Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-6pm

Wednesday 2pm to 6pm

Telephone: (02) 9382 7440

Sexual Health Infoline: 1800 451 624

**Monday - Friday 9am to 5:30pm**

Internet:

[www.sesahs.nsw.gov.au/sydhosp/SSHC.asp](http://www.sesahs.nsw.gov.au/sydhosp/SSHC.asp)

## NSW/ACT Sexual Health Services

### Free & confidential sexual health care

Albury	Ph: (02) 6058 1840
Armidale	Ph: (02) 6776 4738
Bourke	Ph: (02) 6872 2145
Broken Hill	Ph: (08) 8080 1556
Canberra	Ph: (02) 6244 2184
Coffs Harbour	Ph: (02) 6656 7865
Dareton	Ph: (03) 5021 7200
Dubbo	Ph: (02) 6885 1700
Forster	Ph: (02) 6555 6822
Gosford	Ph: (02) 4320 2114
Goulburn	Ph: (02) 4827 3913
Griffith	Ph: (02) 6966 9900
Katoomba	Ph: (02) 4784 6560
Kings Cross	Ph: (02) 9360 2766
Kogarah	Ph: (02) 9350 2742
Lightning Ridge	Ph: (02) 6829 1022
Lismore	Ph: (02) 6620 2980
Liverpool	Ph: (02) 9827 8022
Manly	Ph: (02) 9977 3288
Marrickville	Ph: (02) 9560 3057
Mt Druitt	Ph: (02) 9881 1733
Newcastle	Ph: (02) 4923 6909
Nowra	Ph: (02) 4423 9353
Orange	Ph: (02) 6392 8600
Parramatta	Ph: (02) 9843 3124
Penrith	Ph: (02) 4734 2507
Port Kembla	Ph: (02) 4276 2399
Queanbeyan	Ph: (02) 6298 9233
Richmond	Ph: (02) 4578 1622
St Leonards	Ph: (02) 9926 7414
Sydney City	Ph: (02) 9382 7440
Tamworth	Ph: (02) 6766 3095
Taree	Ph: (02) 6592 9421
Wagga Wagga	Ph: (02) 6938 6492



## How does someone get infected?

Syphilis is usually transmitted by having vaginal, anal or oral intercourse without a condom, with someone who has the infection. It can also be transmitted during pregnancy from an infected woman to the unborn baby.

## How do I know if I have syphilis?

There are four different stages of syphilis. In **primary syphilis**, a sore appears at the site of infection about 10-90 days after contact. The sore is usually painless and often goes unnoticed. The sore heals spontaneously within 2-6 weeks. **Secondary syphilis** develops about 7-10 weeks after the initial infection. During this time, a person may experience a range of symptoms that can include flu-like symptoms, or have a rash on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet. These symptoms are usually mild and go away on their own so again, may go unnoticed. The infection then becomes latent. In **latent syphilis** there are no symptoms and the infection can remain in this stage for years. Between 3-35 years later, tertiary syphilis may develop. **Tertiary syphilis** occurs as a result of damage to internal organs such as the brain, spinal cord and heart.

## How do you test for syphilis?

Syphilis can be diagnosed by a blood test, which you can have at your local doctor or sexual health clinic.

## Is there any treatment?

Once found, syphilis is easily treated by antibiotic injection/s or tablets. The length of treatment depends on the stage of the infection.

## Will sexual partners need treatment?

This will depend on the stage of the infection and how the infection was caught. These issues will be discussed by your doctor or nurse.

## What advice should be given to people with syphilis?

- ★ The full course of treatment must be completed in order to cure syphilis.
- ★ Flu-like symptoms are a normal reaction during the first few days of treatment.
- ★ If a body rash or any other symptom develops after the first day of treatment, the nurse or doctor should be informed. These symptoms may indicate an allergic reaction.
- ★ Once the treatment is completed, follow-up blood tests are recommended. These are to ensure the infection has been fully treated.
- ★ It is usually OK to have sexual intercourse after the first week of therapy. Ask the doctor or nurse.

## What will future syphilis blood tests show?

If you have ever had syphilis it will always show up on any syphilis blood test. Unfortunately having this show up on your blood test does not protect you from catching syphilis again.

## How to correctly use a condom



- Choose a brand that fits you comfortably.
- Do not use teeth to open packet. Be careful not to tear condom with nails.
- Check "use by" date.



- Squeeze tip of condom and unroll on to erect penis.
- Pull back foreskin before unrolling if uncircumcised.
- Unroll condom fully to base of penis.



- Always use water-based lubricant.
- Do not use oil or Vaseline.
- During sex check condom is still in place.



- When finished, withdraw while penis is still erect.
- Hold onto the base of the condom to make sure it comes out and to prevent contents from spilling.
- Use condom only once.